

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 22nd Session April 17th - 28th,  
2023**  
**Statement on behalf of Global Indigenous Peoples Organizations preparatory  
meeting April 15-16, 2023, at the UN Church Center.**

We, as Indigenous Peoples, would first like to express our collective concern regarding the use of language within the UN system that aims to diminish our inherent right to Self Determination by referring to us as Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC). Indigenous Peoples' individual and collective rights are unique, and recognition of such rights is necessary to ensure our continuing existence. We are also concerned about the diminishment of Indigenous Peoples participation within the UN system. Despite the efforts to "enhance" our participation, year after year rules, procedures and processes of the UNPFII have greatly restricted our participation. Furthermore, Governments, Corporations, and Extractive Industries continue to destroy and contaminate the land, waters, and air, which not only forces the displacement of Indigenous Peoples, it also continues to be detrimental to our environment, resulting in the loss of ecosystems, which has long-term impacts, especially for Indigenous Peoples who are directly dependent on those ecosystems. We recognize the further evidence that the ongoing patterns of colonialism and the lack of Full, Effective, and Meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in the processes of mitigation, adaptation actions, and policy-making continue to be factors in the ongoing quest for climate change solution, as stated in the IPCC 2023 Synthesis Report (IPCC AR6 SYR). Member States continue to criminalize our Human Rights defenders, Land and Water Protectors, as well as our traditional/cultural practices which are instrumental in providing protection and solutions for the ongoing climate crisis. Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

We reject any attempts to undermine the rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially in regards to our lands, waterways, and territories, in the name of "conservation" as a way to mitigate climate change. We recommend the Permanent Forum establish a Working Group or commission to monitor and evaluate the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, especially concerning Goal 3 of the global policy known as 30x30. Most of the world's biodiversity is in Indigenous People's territories. Therefore, any 30x30 programs or projects should not be on or near Indigenous Peoples' territories. In addition, 30x30 should not be implemented on any territories without a grievance mechanism because it threatens lands, territories and natural resources, and other goals that put the rights of Indigenous Peoples globally at serious risk. In addition, any territories included in a 30x30 project or program

should not be allowed in any carbon pricing system, carbon market, or offset system, whether voluntary or compliance markets.

We call upon the Permanent Forum, UNESCO, the CBD all UN Agencies and entities, and Member States to work with Indigenous Peoples in adopting climate change policy solutions that not only respect our rights to Free Prior and Informed consent but include our right to Cultural Expressions as part of solution based goals for mitigating Climate Change, as referred to in the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression.

We reiterate the recommendation from the Permanent Forum to Member States and UN Agencies to adopt a rights-based approach towards indigenous language issues that considers the full spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Declaration, as well as the recommendation that Member States, the United Nations system, indigenous peoples' organizations, and other stakeholders share initiatives and strategies undertaken for, with and by Indigenous Peoples to recover, use and revitalize indigenous languages, including through the use of information and communication technologies with special attention to language access, in particular, in areas of judicial proceedings with regards to migration as well as governmental and medical institutions. (Session 18, paragraphs 7&17)

The inadequacy of the UN reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD and REDD+) program must be addressed. Indigenous People's collective rights and the negative effects on their right to territorial and human health, such as their production and consumption of their traditional means of subsistence, and their Sovereignty and self-determination have not been substantiated through the REDD process. Therefore, we call upon the Permanent Forum to recommend to the PA/CMA that all REDD programs and projects go through a full review by the UNFCCC, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples Organizations to assess the validity of programs that claims to reduce emissions from deforestation, reduce emissions from forest degradation, uphold Indigenous Peoples sovereignty and rights and further to develop a grievance mechanism that allows Indigenous Peoples to identify NGOs, Corporations, UN Agencies, Member States, verifiers and other entities involved in setting up REDD programs and projects for violating their rights and the unfounded practices of enlisting Indigenous Peoples into REDD projects and programs.

We welcome the call of the UNPFII for the immediate halt to the assassination, criminalization, incarceration, and all threats to Indigenous Human Rights defenders and Land and Water Protectors. This urgent issue continues to rise globally. Recalling the Permanent Forums recommendation (session 17, paragraph 42) that calls for UN agencies, funds, programmes in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples Organizations to monitor the high levels of violence and threats directed at Indigenous Women and Human Rights Defenders. We further call upon the Human Rights Council and other human rights bodies to address the situation through monitoring, mediation, analysis and the provision of concrete recommendations for the effective protection of Indigenous Human Rights defenders and Land and Water Protectors.

Incarceration of Indigenous youth continues to be an issue. Incarceration of Indigenous Youth can have long-term mental health effects, including physical and spiritual trauma. We call upon the United Nations Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) to ensure, through a monitoring process, that member states are abiding by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 40, which states that State Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.

We welcome CEDAW's General Recommendation no 39, a much-needed protection, for Indigenous Women and Girls and those who have intersecting multifaceted forms of identity from all forms of discrimination. We call upon the UNPFII and Member States to fully endorse and implement CEDAW General Recommendation no. 39 and further call for a study on how negative gendered policies and legislation, stemming from colonization affect the status of the rights of Indigenous Women and Peoples today.

Remembering the Permanent Forum's Recommendation from session 15, paragraph 10, we renew the call for Member States and UN Agencies and entities to provide support, including funding, for the efforts of indigenous peoples' institutions to preserve and revitalize their languages, with the particular goal of fluency. Such efforts may include sharing positive experiences and establishing informal networks or caucuses involved in promoting and revitalizing indigenous languages, as well as using information and communications technology in indigenous languages. It is important that States provide adequate funding for language revitalization and the preservation of cultural heritage as it relates to indigenous languages. In addition,

States should facilitate funding for indigenous language projects from external donors, including the private sector, in accordance with law.

We call upon the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment as part of its mandate to conduct country visits and to respond to human rights violations, to work with Indigenous Peoples in their territories for an independent investigation into ecological harm and its effects on the livelihood of Indigenous Peoples, caused by Climate Change.

Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge continues to be co-opted by Multinational Corporations. We uplift the Permanent Forum's call to the Member States in its 15th Session, paragraph 44, to develop legislative measures, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples to protect traditional medicine and knowledge and to secure the rights of Indigenous Peoples to intellectual property rights. We further call upon WIPO to allow for the full, effective, and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples with special rules of procedure to provide adequate funding for Indigenous Peoples' participation.

We call for the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to conduct an inter-agency study documenting the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Indigenous Peoples, especially indigenous youth, in the context of human rights violations and UNDRIP. We further uplift and support the recommendation for WHO to create and convene regional roundtables to address the issue of Indigenous Peoples and the pandemic as articulated in paragraph 94 from the Report on the 20th Session Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on April 19-30, 2021. E/2021/43 E/C.19/2021/10